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REMARKS

Claims 4 to 9 are pending in the present application.

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the present application in view of this response.

Claims 4 to 9 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,825,300 to Bathrick et al. ("Bathrick reference").

In cols. 2-3 of its Specification, the Bathrick reference purportedly describes that a certifying authority generates and sends keying materials, including a password, to a subject entity via a first secure communications medium (e.g., manual courier). The Bathrick reference then recites that upon receiving the keying material, the entity generates a public and a private key pair and protects the public key using the keying material provided it by the certifying authority. The Bathrick further recites that the entity then generates and protects a request for a certificate to the certifying authority by using the keying materials provided it by the certifying authority. The request is then sent to the certifying authority via a second secure communications medium connecting the certifying authority with the entities in its certifying domain. The Bathrick reference then recites that once the certifying authority receives the request from the entity, the certifying authority authenticates the identity of the requesting entity. Apparently, this is done by requested, via the second secure communications medium, that the public key and address of the entity be sent to the certifying authority. The requesting entity, having received the authentication request from the certifying authority, then protects the transmission of its selected public key and address to the certifying authority via the second secure communications medium by using the keying material provided by the certifying authority. And, once the identity of the requesting entity is confirmed, the certifying authority then assembles and issues the requested certificate to the entity via the second secure communications medium, and records the public key of the entity at the certifying authority for public use by other entities within the certifying domain of the certifying authority.

In contrast, claim 4 of the present invention concerns a method for generating, personalizing, and certifying an asymmetrical cryptokey in accordance with one of an operation performed at a central, secure location correspondence to a trust center and an operation performed at a user location in cooperation with the trust center using a secure transmission between a user and the trust center. The Bathrick reference does not *identically* disclose (as it must for anticipation) or suggest at least the features of causing *the trust center to provide the user with a previously generated, personalized, and certified signature key pair, and with components for producing at least one encryption key pair; unequivocally assigning the at least one encryption key pair to the user; causing the trust center to check the unequivocal assignment of the at least one encryption key pair by using a public part of the previously generated signature key pair; after the check of the unequivocal assignment is performed*

successfully, causing the trust center to produce a new certificate by using at least one of the public part of the previously generated signature key pair and the public part of the at least one encryption key pair; and encrypting the new certificate using the public part of the at least one encryption key pair.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that the Bathrick reference does not anticipate claim 4. Claim 7 recites features analogous to those of claim 4 and is therefore allowable for essentially the same reasons as claim 4. Claims 5, 6, 8, and 9, depend from one of claims 4 and 7, and are allowable for the same reasons.

In summary, it is respectfully submitted that all of claims 4 to 9 of the above-identified application are allowable for the foregoing reasons.

CONCLUSION

In view of all of the above, it is believed that all claims 4 to 9 are allowable. It is therefore respectfully requested that the rejections be reconsidered and withdrawn, and that the present application issue as early as possible.

If it would further allowance of the present application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

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